



STIMULUS MONEY COMES TO SHEFFIELD

SENIOR CENTER RECEIVES FUNDING AFTER ALL

Sheffield's plans for a new senior center building have been revived, thanks to the federal government's stimulus money. The town had applied for but did not receive a Community Development Block Grant in 2008 toward the planned center. Now, with \$9 million added to the grant program from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Massachusetts has been able to award Sheffield \$799,700 to build the new center.

Sheffield is one of 75 Massachusetts communities to receive a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development aimed at towns with a population below 50,000. Other Berkshire towns to receive money include Adams, North Adams and Lee. The grants are administered by the state's Dept. of Housing and Community Development.

The new senior center is to be built on Cook Rd. behind the American Legion Hall on Route 7, on land donated to the town by the Sheffield Post Home in 2006. The projected cost is \$1.2 million. The grant funding will be combined with \$450,000 in town funding approved for the project at a special town meeting in January 2008—a required "local portion" to receive the grant.

When it was first learned in July that funding might be approved, the Board of Selectmen asked for public input on the project and then determined that it should proceed.

Town Administrator Joe Kellogg will oversee the project for the Town. "Our seniors have been waiting several years for this," he said. "They have worked hard to develop a building that meets the Town's needs. I'm pleased and excited that this will now finally happen." He went on to say that if the grant agreements can be signed soon, work could begin as soon as late fall, or at least by next spring. Construction should be completed in one season.

Sheffield's Senior Center has been located in Dewey Hall since 1978, where it must share space with other organiza-

Continued on page 6



Louis Aragi, Jr., right, shows the Pine Island manure tank to Catherine Miller of the town's Economic Development Committee and David Rooney of the Berkshire Development Corp.

FARM GETS GRANT TO TURN MANURE INTO ELECTRICITY

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development program has awarded Pine Island Farm \$821,000 toward setting up an anaerobic digester, a system that turns cow manure into electricity. The funds, announced on Aug. 11, represent a \$321,000 grant and \$500,000 in loan guarantees. The "Rural Energy for America" grant was supported by letters from the Town of Sheffield, the Sheffield Land Trust, which also assisted with the grant application, the Dairy Farms of America dairy cooperative and First Pioneer Farm Credit, which will be providing some of the guaranteed financing. The grant comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment stimulus money.

Louis Aragi, Jr., who runs the farm with his father, Louis "Chico" Aragi, Sr., said that with milk prices at a record low, they need to diversify the business and their sources of income.

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FOLLOWUP: MOWING AROUND THE SHEFFIELD ELM

Mrs. Bob Rueger writes in to offer a big thank you and compliments to the West family for taking such conscientious care of the Big Elm Memorial site on Route 7 (article in the March/April 2009 Sheffield Times). "It brought to my mind the spring and summer of 1970," she writes, "when I drove our son, Bruce, to that site with our lawn mower, a can of gas, pruning shears and a hand-operated grass shear. He needed a service project for his Boy Scout Eagle award. As the article mentioned, the area was much in need of care, so Bruce spoke to Lillian Preiss, guidance counselor at Mt. Everett High School, and asked her advice for formulating a program for its care. Mrs. Preiss referred him to the Board of Selectmen, who gave him permission. He remembers that at the time, Arthur Chase was the chair.

"The lovely flowering trees were not there, but lots of poison ivy was. He unearthed an old fence at the back of the site, totally useless and overgrown with weeds, small bushes and the aforementioned poison ivy. He worked diligently all summer and by fall the area was much improved. He was very proudly the recipient of his Eagle Scout award in 1971.

"Now, at 52, Bruce is still a scouter. He is scoutmaster in Waterville, ME, and is the lodge advisor for the District Order of the Arrow. His scouting began here, in Ashely Falls, when he was 8 years old, with Dorris Van Deusen as his den mother."

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we'll catch you in the next.

Anonymous
Nature & Culture, Inc.

Nancy McGirr
Joseph Todd

Sheffield TIMES

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SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION: EXPANDED FAIR, STEAK ROAST, MORE

As it has for the past eight years, the weekend after Labor Day brings Sheffield in Celebration, a weekend of events and festivities around town.

The Sheffield Fair. The Sheffield Fair will take place on Sat., Sept. 12 from noon to 6pm at the Town Park off Miller Ave. New this year: An apple pie contest, organized by Barbara Delmolino. Judging, which will take place at 3pm, will be based on the pies' appearance, aroma, flakiness of the crust and taste. There will be first, second and third prizes awarded in three categories:

Juniors (ages 17 and under), Adult (18 to 59) and Senior (60+). After the judging, entries will then be available for purchase by the piece. Anyone interested in participating should contact Barbara at 229-8696.

The Fair is also excited to be hosting its first showmanship and fitting competition for cattle and horses. Judging will take place at 2pm, in three categories: novices (never shown before), juniors (ages 7 to 14) and seniors (15 to 19). Fairgoers can also check out the animals throughout the Fair, and there will be several "learn to show" workshops for interested attendees during the day. The *Sheffield in Celebration* committee would like to thank the local FFA and 4-H groups (Busy Farmers, River Valley and Sheffield Whinnies) for helping make this possible, the Berkshire County Farm Bureau for donating the trophy, and judges Rhett Proctor and Cassie Uricchio, who also helped organize the event.



Old Parish Quilt. Old Parish will raffle off this 100x110-inch quilt at the Sheffield Fair. Above, Dorothy Caul, Teddi Batacchi, Joe Elling, Marion Whitman and Eleanor Van Deusen work on "Old Parish Stars." Chances are \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5.

Questions? Contact Cassie at 860-214-0343.

There will also be many returning favorite activities and entertainments. Kids' activities, organized by Susan LeGeyt, include hayrides, face painting and a bounce house. The Boy Scouts will set up their ever-popular climbing wall. There will be a fire engine from the Fire Dept., and 4-H and FFA will also have animals on hand for the kids to enjoy.

Local craftspeople, organizations and community groups, including the Town of Sheffield, will have tables to dispense information and sell their wares. Old Parish Church will once again be raffling off a quilt (see page 11).

The food court will include local produce and goods as well as the Kiwanis trailer selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Other fair food, such as fried dough, will also be for sale.

Live music for the Fair, from 1-6pm, has been organized by Tom Ingersoll,

with a varied roster of many styles of music.

The Town Park offers lots of space for exhibits and parking. Look for signs on Rt. 7 just north of the center of Sheffield to the Town Park. The event is rain or shine, thanks to the roofed pavilion!

Concert at Dewey Hall.

At 8pm, as part of the Dewey Hall Folk Series, *Yankee Notions* will perform at the Hall off Rte 7 in the center of Sheffield. See page 13 for more.

Steak Roast. The day after the Fair, Sun., Sept. 13 from 4:30-7pm, the annual Kiwanis/

Firemen's Steak Roast returns to the firehouse, where people will have the opportunity to see the new addition. This is a benefit for both groups. See page 20 for details on tickets.

Thank you! The *Sheffield in Celebration* committee would like to thank corporate sponsor Sheffield Pottery, and all the other businesses, organizations and individuals whose contributions have made the celebration possible.

For more information or to inquire about vendor and exhibitor space, contact Dave Smith, Sr., at 229-9956 or westhill483@hotmail.com. For the Food Court and Market, contact Barb Davidson at 229-8091.

THE SHEFFIELD TIMES

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RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY—PLEASE!

Unless you've been living under a rock (and come to think of it, even if you were) you know that it's been an unbelievable spring and summer for rainfall. It's been a year of flooded roads, flooded fields and flooded basements.

If it felt to you as if it was raining almost every day, you were right. At Barnes Municipal Airport in Westfield, some amount of rainfall was measured on 62 of 92 days in May, June and July. According to the National Weather Service, July was the wettest on record in the Berkshires and Albany area: nearly 10 inches of rain, surpassing a record set in 1871.

For our farmers, the growing season has been nothing short of a disaster. "This is the worst year I've ever had in all my years of farming," says Dick Boardman of Boardman Farm on Hewins St. "There's been no sun, and you couldn't walk on the ground. That's the disadvantage of being in a flood plain. I lost a lot of corn, squash, and pumpkins. I've lost over three quarters of my winter squash—I haven't even looked yet. It's been halfway decent for cucumbers and eggplants. They did get set back, but not like the rest of crops."

Dick raises all his own tomatoes and has mercifully been spared the tomato blight that has hit so many other farms. "They're producing," he says, "but nothing like they should be. And then, of course, there were the mosquitoes."

He jokes, "What I should have done instead of putting all that money into seeds was go to the racetrack in Saratoga, walk up to the window, and say, 'Here.'"

At Wolfe Spring Farm, also on Hewins St., things weren't all bad, reports Jim Wolfe. "The peas and beans did well," he says. "We had a good early season with strawberries, five or six great weeks. And the raspberries are doing great." On the other hand, the farm lost all its tomatoes to blight. "We pulled 250 plants and burned them," he says. "The potatoes are underground so you can dig them up and eat them. One whole garden down low flooded, so the cukes, corn, and squash there were gone. We feed 15 families in our CSA [shares in a farm known as Community Supported Agriculture], so everyone took a shot this year."

The difficulties will not end when the summer is over, because farmers may be facing a hay shortage for their animals, Jim says. In addition to egg layers and turkeys, Wolfe Spring Farm is home to a milk cow, a goat, and horses. "It was hard to get first cutting hay in, so if the second cutting doesn't go well we may have to buy hay," says Jim. "No one could make hay this year."

That's helped make a challenging year for local dairy farmers even more so, as they struggle to produce hay and feed corn while the price they get paid for their liquid milk is at a record low - not even covering costs.

Equinox Farm on Bow Wow Rd. specializes in mesclun lettuce, arugula and other greens. Says Ted Dobson, "The rain has set me back well over a ton on a weekly basis. Normally we sow every three to four days, and either it rained so we couldn't sow or it washed out our sowing after we'd done it. Luckily, my son's in the greens business in Maine, and they've only gotten half

the rain we have, so I bring in produce from him." Equinox has not escaped the tomato blight either. "I've lost 2,800 heirlooms to it," he says. Ted voices a common sentiment: "It's surreal. It's like, it can't be raining again, not like this, all day and all night."

Bruce Howden of Howden Farm on Rannapo Rd. is so busy dealing with the summer's challenges that he had time for only one observation: "The weather has not been kind," he says.

Anna James, as manager of the Farmers' Market of Sheffield, has had a good overview of the damage. "Our farmers have lost thousands of dollars due to rot," she says. She cites especially the phytophthora fungal disease that is rampant in this sodden year. "It takes out fruits, berries, potatoes, tomatoes, anything in nightshade family," she says. "Taft farms lost all their strawberries, and then the late blight wiped out their tomatoes. Almost all of the farms lost tomato crops. One organic farm over in New York State lost \$40,000 in tomatoes."

There's been a good variety of produce, she says, though it is later than usual. "The corn that should have been here just after the Fourth of July didn't come in until the middle of August," Anna says. "It's the same with tomatoes. Everything has been put back by up to a month. And some things just didn't grow normally, or bolted, like our broccoli and cauliflower. We had four-foot corn with tassels. There's not a lot you can do about it. I've heard that lots of home gardeners have had an equally bad time."

What has helped the Farmer's Market is diversity, both in geography and in merchandise. "All our farmers are in slightly different places," she says, "so one might have something that another doesn't,

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BY APP'T FRIDAYS

because they have less rain or sandier soil. Our vendors come from a wide area, from as far as Sandisfield and New York." Plus, she adds, vendors sell things besides produce, like soups, quiches, smoked trout, knives, and bakery goods.

Business at the market this summer has been slow and steady. "The first two weeks of August have been better, because we had sunshine. Before that we had rain every Friday," she says. "At this point we have vendors going all around Old Parish church. We started out with 13 vendors, and now we're up to about 20."

For some local gardeners, things are not quite as awful as they are for the farmers. Julie Chamberlain of Julie Chamberlain Gardening in Ashley Falls has a mixed report. "My biggest problem was that it was hard keeping up because I lost a lot of time to rain," she says. "But a lot of things did really well. We had a bumper crop of berries—the raspberries, black caps, blueberries, and blackberries were all really good. Things like kale and other greens did well too, and so did the ornamentals. I didn't have to water my newly-planted shrubs or my pots, and the grass was very happy. That's the good news. The bad news was the fungal black spot that hit the roses. The hollyhocks were hit hard, too. And we also had a bumper crop of weeds."

She notes that plants are reacting oddly to dry days. "The plants seem to be suffering even more than they would normally, as if they got used to having all that water. Today I ran around watering shrubs that look to me as if they're having water stress."

And she too mentions the rain by-product that all of us love best: the mosquitoes. "We've been here since 1988," she said, "and it's only the third year that we can't even go out to pick parsley without all the armor on."

Bill DeVries of DeVries Building Supply is in a good position to see what people are dealing with in terms of their houses. Sadly, it's about what you'd expect. "There are tons of roofing issues," he says, "and there are lots of mold issues too. Also, we've sold a lot of sump pumps. In fact, we sold out of them two or three times in July."

So: mold, fungus, blight, mud, mosquitoes. What else could afflict us? How about heat? In August, in addition to continuing rain and humidity, we've also had several days over 90 degrees, the first of the summer.

—Ellen Weiss

SHEFFIELD 'INDEPENDENCE DAY' BENEFIT

The American Legion Post 340, with the help of the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center, the Sheffield Historical Society and many volunteers held a very successful "Fourth of July" celebration on July 3rd to raise money for improvements to the Post Home building.

Mary Philbrick, Tom Tighe, Kathy Nourse, Carl Schumann and Ann and Bob Dean decorated the tables with flags purchased by the Friends of the Senior Center. Chef Ed Barbieri and his kitchen crew, Scott Erwin and Chamo Naigle, prepared a tender and tasty ham dinner for about 125 people under the leadership of Legion members Mark Bachetti, George Oleen, Dale Alden and Bruce Philbrick. The Boy Scouts served, and Frank Clark and Wally Hitchcock led the dish-washing brigade.

George Oleen and Frank Clark had made the wooden platform for the Prince Edward Island band and dancers, and Jim Kelly housed the band and fed them pancakes for breakfast. Tom Ingersoll set up the sound system for the band. Marion Whitman handled the press releases. Gulotta's Gas station

and Silk's Variety Store were donors.

Mark Bachetti, Legion officer, described some of the improvements planned: wood floors, air conditioning, and handicapped accessible features.

Dennis Sears, president of the Historical Society was the featured speaker. Dennis, dressed in red, white and blue, discussed the fact that Sheffield's first "declaration" was not one of Independence but of grievances. The Committee assigned "to take into Consideration the Grievances which Americans in General and the Inhabitants of this Province in particular labour under" was formed on January 12, 1773. It included Theodore Sedgwick, Dr. Silas Kellogg, Col. John Ashley, Dr. Lemuel Barnard, Aaron Root, Major John Fellows, Philip Callender, Capt. William Day, Deacon Eben Smith, Capt. Nathaniel Austin and Capt. Stephen Dewey.

The food was good, the music was fun. The committee has met to evaluate and plan another celebration next year.

—Pauline W. Schumann



Commander George Oleen greets some of the guests at the historically themed benefit held to raise money for improvements to the American Legion building on Route 7.

HOMETOWN BASEBALL TEAM ENJOYS SECOND SEASON

The Great Barrington Millers are named for the long history of grist mills, paper mills, tanneries and breweries that stood along the stretch of the Housatonic that was once part of Sheffield and is now downtown Great Barrington. A handful of Sheffield natives are at the core of the Southern Berkshire's only adult amateur baseball team. Their love for the game brought them together 10 years after last playing organized hardball. Jamie Law, Andy Cook, Tom Ingersoll, Matt Emprimo and Chris Joyce join a dozen others on the Millers roster. Many on the team played together on Mt. Everett High School and Babe Ruth teams as well.

The team plays in the Capital District 25+ Baseball Division of the Men's Senior Baseball League in a season that stretches from April to August. Their home field is Memorial Field on Bridge St. in Great Barrington. For more information on the Millers, visit www.gbmillers.com.

NEW SENIOR CENTER, from page 1

tions that use the facility. The effort to create a dedicated center has been going on for about 10 years.

Plans for the new center were created by the architectural firm of Reinhardt and Associates, working with the Senior Center Building Committee. The building will have a great room large enough to accommodate 80 people. Surrounding the great room and in the basement will be activity and supply rooms as well as a kitchen, a nursing office, a director's office, bathrooms and a lounge.

John-Arthur Miller, director of the Senior Center, is pleased with the support from the town in passing this project. "This new building will be a real boost to the lives of our seniors and will provide long-needed space to continue to improve programs and advocacy to nearly 25 percent of our Sheffield population."

To furnish and supply the new building, a new nonprofit group, Friends of the Senior Center, was formed last year. Pauline Schumann, president of the Friends, said "We have been working toward this for a long time, and we look forward to years of fun and games and maybe even some serious study there!" She went on, "I am pleased that the stimulus package is making the construction possible, and I hope it gives some needed hours to our local work force." —Andrea Scott

FARM GRANT, continued from page 1

"The digester and the dairy complement each other," he said.

The total cost of the digester system will be around \$1.3 million. In addition to the funds above, \$481,000 comes from a Mass Technology Collaborative grant and \$34,800 from a grant from the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources.

It will take several months for the digester system to become operational. It would be the first digester built in Massachusetts. As part of their research, the Aragis traveled to Vermont, where five digesters are in operation, and some smaller digesters are in Connecticut.

Pine Island's main farm lies between Hewins St. and the Housatonic River, with additional fields along Route 7 south of Sheffield center. It's one of the largest dairy farms in Massachusetts, though it is small by comparison with large-scale operations in the Midwest. The farm itself is 670 acres, plus the Aragis lease about 500 additional acres nearby, to grow the hay and corn to feed the herd of about 1,000 cows. The farm employs nine people full-time, along with several seasonal workers.

Those cows generate 10,000 gallons of manure a day—enough to produce about 225 kilowatts of electricity per hour. That will offset the farm's current electricity bill—which has been as high as \$10,000 a month—and sell some energy back to National Grid, giving the farm an additional source of income.

The digester will also solve the problem of what to do with so much manure. The farm is in the Housatonic River floodplain, and stored manure can cause water quality problems if there's flooding. To address this issue, the state awarded the farm \$449,000 toward construction of an above-ground manure slurry storage system that can hold more than 4 million gallons.

Once the digester is built, diluted manure from the tank can be pumped there. An anaerobic digester uses microbes to produce methane gas, much the way methane is produced in a cow's stomach, and the methane powers a generator. The nutrient-rich residue from the process is squeezed, producing two pathogen-, weed- and odor-reduced byproducts: one a liquid that is a better fertilizer for the farm's corn and hay fields than plain manure and one a fibrous solid that can be used as bedding for the cows or sold as compost.

"Sheffield has lost a number of dairy farms over the years in part due to high overhead costs, so the Board of Selectmen applauds Pine Island Farm's innovative efforts to reduce its energy costs," said Julie Hannum on behalf of the Board. "With the digester, the Aragis have figured out a way to create a win-win situation."

TRAINING IN NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION

Roberta Wall will present a day-long training in the principles and practices of nonviolent communication as developed by Marshall Rosenberg. Trainees will learn to transform anger, blame and judgment into empathy and how to ask for what they need. The cost is \$65. Scholarships may be available. At Dewey Hall, Oct. 18, 10am-4pm. To register, contact Karen Andrews at 413-232-4027 or karenjandrews@gmail.com.



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SERENDIPITY AND SCULPTURE IN ASHLEY FALLS

The course of this year's Lenox Garden Tour, on July 11, led straight through the center of Ashley Falls. Realizing that hundreds of visitors would be passing by, the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society in collaboration with MassBliss Productions decided to enhance the event by hosting a "Tea and Sculpture Garden" on the Ashley Falls Green. The AFVIS is a community organization open to all who live in the village. MassBliss Productions is an alternative education and arts production company founded by new Ashley Falls residents Andrew Belcher and Athena Fliakos.

The event took place on a sunny day in a summer of rain. The works of 14 local artists, including Richard Chernerff, Tamarack Garlow, Terri Moore and Karl Saliter, transformed the green, with works ranging from the classical to the whimsical. Actors roamed the grass. Tables and chairs complete with tea settings let visitors rest in the shade. The dramatic notes of an accordion and the soothing voices of Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald set a summer mood unspoiled



Sculptures and tea tables transformed the Ashley Falls green on July 11.

even by this season's rabid mosquitoes.

By 11am people were lined up for iced tea donated by Harney & Sons. Sandwiches provided by Sheffield's own Marketplace, supplemented by home-made tea sandwiches from members of the AFVIS, disappeared well before lunchtime. Proceeds from the tea went to benefit the AFVIS and MassBliss.

Athena and Andrew founded MassBliss Production "with a dual mission—to provide art and educational opportunities that give community members permission to make life beautiful," said Athena. "The lucidity of the day gave visitors the chance to appreciate the relationship between the natural wonder of these hills and the artistic magic to which they give rise."

BARNUM ST. CONTINUES BLOCK PARTY TRADITION

Sixty-two years ago, on July 4, 1947, Roger and Virginia Drury decided to host a supper for the neighbors on either side of their house on Barnum St., where they'd moved the year before. It became an annual picnic supper with an ever-widening group invited from the road and continued that way for more than 15 years. In 1963, it turned into an afternoon open house with punch and donuts.

By 1976, the standard fare at the July Fourth get-together had become donut holes and Virginia's famous iced tea (the recipe for which many organizations in Sheffield still use at their functions). The Drurys and then Virginia (after Roger's death) continued to host the "Donut Hole Party," with those invited extending to some of the neighbors on Veely and Kelsey roads along with alumni of Barnum St.

In 2003, after Virginia moved to Geer Village in Connecticut, Helen Bray-Garretson (and Frank) continued the July Fourth Donut Hole Party at their house on Barnum St. This year Susan Rothschild and Don Freedman took it over from the Garretsons. During the afternoon, some 40 or 50 neighbors dropped in. It's been a great way for neighbors to get to know each other better and catch up on each others' lives. This year many people met their neighbors for the first time.

(Thanks to Geoff Drury, Virginia and Roger's son, for much of the historical context.)

—Don Freedman



Join the Land Trust
for a guided walk on private
conserved farmland at
Balsam Hill Farm on
Hewins St.

The walk will be
Oct. 17 or 31

Watch for the final date and time in
local media closer to the event!



WHEN W.E.B. DU BOIS CAME TO SHEFFIELD

Great Barrington, our neighbor to the north, claims the honor of being the birthplace and boyhood home of W.E.B. Du Bois, the great African American sociologist, scholar and activist. He was born in Great Barrington in 1868 and died in his adopted country, Ghana, in 1963. Sheffield was not untouched by his spirit, however. In his Autobiography, written when he was 90 years old, he recalls how as a boy he made occasional trips to Sheffield to visit his cousins, the Pipers, "to play with John and his sisters."

A letter from Dwight R. Little to Du Bois, dated Feb. 11, 1950, when Little was 72 and Du Bois was 82, reveals more of Du Bois's impact. Little was an educator who lived part of his life in Sheffield, particularly his childhood, and who attended Old Parish Church.

"My dear Dr. Du Bois: Since the time you gave a reading in the Sheffield Congregational Church (probably in 1890 or

1891, as I remember you were introduced as from Harvard) I have followed your career with great interest. I must have been at that time about to begin my high school course, which I followed up with college work at Williams, graduating in 1900. After that I taught in Brooklyn until 1937, then came to Great Barrington. The principal of our high school (the Great Barrington High School) tells me he expects to speak of you in assembly sometime before your birthday on the twenty-third, and it occurred to me that you might be willing and able to write to them a word of greeting from an alumnus who has made his mark. I might modify this by saying 'probably their greatest alumnus, who has made a mark for which a nation and a race is indebted.' I thank you for the note, if you see fit to send it, and, in any case, for the inspiration you have been to a Sheffield boy."

Little received a reply within a week.

By that time Du Bois' passions had expanded globally and he was the vice-chairman of the Council on African Affairs of "Color and Democracy, Colonies and Peace," with offices in New York. He thanked Little for his kind letter and apparently enclosed a short greeting to the high school students, of which we do not have a copy. He concluded by noting that he hoped to come up to Great Barrington shortly and would "be glad to meet you."

Today Du Bois is controversial to some, revered by others. The controversy is fueled by his joining the Communist Party of the United States in 1961 and turning his back on the U.S. and becoming a citizen of Ghana shortly before his death in 1963. Historians find it symbolic that he died on Aug. 27, the day before the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

When Du Bois came to Sheffield in 1890 or 1891, his career was still being shaped. He remembers his growing up years in Great Barrington with real fondness and little sense of the racial hostility that would shape his life work. He was valedictorian of the Great Barrington High School senior class in 1884 and gave a commencement speech about Wendell Phillips, the great abolitionist and advocate for Native Americans, a renowned orator of the time.

Du Bois first encountered racial intolerance after he left the Berkshires, attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee from 1885 to 1888. When he gave that reading at the Sheffield Congregational Church, he was a student or had just graduated from Harvard with a B.A. cum laude, where he was one of six commencement speakers of a class of 300.

We don't know what he said when he came to Sheffield. Dwight R. Little, then about 12 years old, was there, and heard, and remembered, and believed it would be inspiring for the Great Barrington High School class of 1950 to hear from this great man. Knowing that Du Bois touched someone in our small town that way inspires me as well.

—John G. Wightman

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BERKSHIRE SCHOOL'S 'BEAR' REMEMBERED

Every prep school has its legends, and Berkshire School is no exception. You'll find one in the Sheffield town cemetery on Berkshire School Rd., where stands a huge hunk of marble with the word "Chase" chiseled into it. To the right is a small replica of a black bear. It is a fitting final resting place for Arthur C. Chase aka The Bear, a massive man, a memorable educator and a model citizen. Last year was the centennial of his birth, and he died 18 years ago this coming Sept. 30.

A native of Ware, MA, where his father was the Episcopalian minister, Art Chase graduated from Harvard and went west to teach English at the Los Alamos Ranch School in Los Alamos, NM, whose graduates include author Gore Vidal.

Art came to Berkshire School in 1938. By the time of his retirement in 1973, he had become legendary indeed: assistant headmaster, English teacher and department chair, trail blazer, maple syrup maker, rope tow house engineer, poet, playwright, bridge builder and bridge player, raconteur.



Making syrup with members of the school's Maple Syrup Corp. around 1956.

on Berkshire School Rd.; on the property was a marble quarry that would yield his gravestone. Upon his retirement the school's mascot was changed from the wildcat to the bear, his nickname.

In his memory, Berkshire School donated a memorial brick in the new town hall parking lot, fitting since Art was as committed to his community as he was to his students. After he retired from the school, he served several terms as Sheffield selectman. He was active in the Sheffield Historical Society, served on the boards of Bartholomew's Cobble and the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council, and was the booming bass in the choir every Sunday at Christ Church Episcopal. "All This Freedom Talk," his play about the former slave Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman of Ashley Falls, was performed in Old Parish Church in the late 1970s.

These Sheffield residents, his former students or colleagues at Berkshire School, share their memories:

K.C. Clow, class of 1969: "He was a big man: in the dining



Art Chase meets with a young English student around 1948.

He and his wife, school librarian Alice Ann Anderson Chase, lived with their children Janet, Ed and Ann in an old farmhouse on the Berkshire campus that is today Chase House, the school's admission office. The family later moved to a house

hall he would lean across the table and with one hand pick up a dozen industrial plates. But he was one of the nicest guys in the world, and if you had a problem, you could go to Mr. Chase and he would listen."

Tim Brooks, class of 1970: "I was a friend of his son's, and as a Cub Scout I'd make maple syrup with him at Berkshire. I never had him as a teacher but his English classroom was next to mine and you could hear him bellowing at some poor kid who was late to class, 'Nice of you to show up!' He was imposing, but

to me he was just Mr. Chase, Eddie's dad."

Dave Weiss, class of 1974: "My first impression of Art Chase was that of a man who spoke little but was clearly heard. No one dared to cross him after seeing the size of his hands. He taught not only from education and experience, but from the inside. He taught not only simply but effectively, and his approval was gladly accepted. He was a true original."

Former French teacher Ross Hawkins: "I was overwhelmed by him. On the one hand, he was an environmentalist capable of prodigious feats in the forest. On the other, he was an incredible scholar who knew everything in the area of English and American literature. He was capable of everything that had to do with prep school life."

Former English chair Hilary Russell: "Art's imagination profoundly shaped Berkshire School. Many of us stood in awe of him. By keeping bees, sugaring, and gardening (he always tried to have a tomato by the Fourth of July), he literally partook of the woods and fields. And with imagination and muscle—and a vision of instilling frontier values of rugged individualism and self-reliance—he re-shaped the woods around Berkshire School. With a two-person chainsaw, and many gangs of Berkshire School students, Art cleared a mountainside slope for a ski hill and rigged two rope tows with Model T Ford engines. He built hiking trails, rustic bridges, cabins, and Adirondack lean-tos."

Former history teacher Twiggs Myers, also a longtime neighbor: "I saw Art regularly during his final illness, and he died as he had lived: opinionated, strong-willed, intolerant of cant, kind, thoughtful, and interested in everything. He was a remarkable colleague, friend, and neighbor, and I miss him greatly."

—James Harris

Harris is director of communications at Berkshire School.



Art Chase's Trail Squad was a popular fall activity. Also from around 1956.

WALK TO BENEFIT CONSTRUCT, INC.

The Annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness, sponsored by Construct, Inc., will be held on Sun., Oct. 18. Registration begins at Ski Butternut at 12:30 pm. The walk starts at 1pm and proceeds down Route 23 and Main Street in Great Barrington, ending at the Construct office on Mahaiwe St.

Homelessness is not only an urban problem; it is very real in the beautiful Berkshires. The walk, in its 21st year, is the major way Construct raises funds to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families of south Berkshire County. Last year's event raised more than \$50,000. All of that money had been given out by July 1, and since then many people have been desperately waiting for Construct to receive further donations. The goal for this year's walk is \$60,000.

The money helps prevent foreclosures, evictions and utility shutoffs and pays for medical prescriptions, food, transportation needs and emergency motel stays. Without

this immediate assistance and subsequent referrals to other agencies and government programs, more than 200 people would have been homeless.

More than 200 households received assistance since last year's walk, 20 of them from Sheffield. For the first time, some of the requests came from unemployed professionals. Other first-time applications are from self-employed, seasonal employees who have not had the summer employment that is necessary to get them through the coming winter. Construct's typical group of clients have been low income, elderly, disabled or single parent households.

Churches, businesses, service providers, and professionals are urged to create teams of walks and sponsors. Relief stations, snacks and water will be available at two checkpoints. Refreshments and entertainment provided by Tom Ingersoll will be offered at the end point. Vans will be available along the route if walkers need

PLATE TO SUPPORT FARMS



The state of Massachusetts has set up a specialty license plate to support agriculture. The state needs about 800 more orders for the "Ag Tags." before the end of the fall or the plate will be discontinued. Proceeds from the plates—\$40 over the usual registration fee—go to the Massachusetts Agricultural Trust Fund, which supports programs and services that help farmers, or you can direct your donation to your local Agricultural Commission, Farm Bureau, or Buy Local program. To sign up, go to www.mass.gov/agr/agtag.

assistance and will provide transportation back to the start point.

Construct, Inc. is a Berkshire United Way member. As a nonprofit shelter, housing, and life skills agency it has served as a safety net in South County for nearly 40 years. For more information, call Construct, Inc., at 528-1985.

The Sheffield Historical Society



COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING SHEFFIELD'S HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

The **1774 Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm (May-Oct.)

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The **1834 Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space.

Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm
& Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

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CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish

Quilt raffle. The Old Parish 17th Annual Quilt Raffle is one of the highlights of Sheffield in Celebration. On Sat., Sept. 12, a winner will be drawn at 6pm for a quilt created by members and friends of Old Parish. The 100x110-inch "Old Parish Stars" is oversized for a queen bed and will accommodate a king bed as a coverlet. The Civil War-type prints used were chosen for richness of color and their American heritage.

SAVE THE DATE

Woods Tea Company is giving a concert at Old Parish Church on Sun., Nov. 29, at 2pm. Put it on your calendar now and tell your Thanksgiving guests to plan on staying over!

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. See page 3 for a picture of the quilt being made.

Play: 'Hey, Save The Earth!' The Just Peace Players will present their newest play at Old Parish Church

on Sun., Sept. 13 at 3pm. The troupe travels throughout New England sharing a vision of peace and justice through drama. In 2003 and 2006 they performed at universities and seminaries in China.

"Hey, Save The Earth!" celebrates all

of creation. Through song, poetry, and drama, it invites people to imagine new ways to care for the earth. People will leave the performance filled with a renewed call to work for ecological justice around the world.

The Deacons of Old Parish are sponsoring this event as a followup to last September's bell ringing on Sept. 6, in which Old Parish was one of four United Church of Christ churches in the four corners of Massachusetts to kick off the 350.org campaign, a movement that works toward lowering personal and community carbon footprints.

The Just Peace Players' presentation is free and family friendly. For information, call 229-8173.

Food Assistance Program

The Food Assistance Program is serving 93 people in 32 households. In recent weeks, we ran out of pasta and rice for the first time. If you have never shared with the Food Program, this is

SILENT AUCTION AT CHRIST CHURCH

On Sat., Oct. 10, from 8am to 3pm, Christ Church Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran Church will hold its 10th annual auction. Community members and visitors will be able to bid on specialty items, antiques, merchandise certificates, one-of-a-kind services and lots of bargains while supporting the good works of a local church, located at the corner of Route 7 and Maple Ave.

Once again, event organizers expect there to be hundreds of lots. To assist busy buyers, house bids will be available from 8am to noon—you can leave a bid to be executed incrementally in your absence. Successful bidders will be notified by phone and merchandise pickup will begin on Saturday at 6pm, continuing on Sun., Oct. 11 from 9am to noon.

Anyone wishing to donate items or services to the Silent Auction can call 229-3534 or 229-8811. Donations are greatly appreciated and donation letters are available.

—Rene Wood

a good time to start. You can leave contributions in the kitchen at Old Parish church or in the barrel at the Berkshire Bank branch in town. Please consider us when you shop.

The three shares in the Wolfe Spring Farm CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) continue to bring produce to our shelves. June Wolfe donated one of the shares and Share the Bounty, affiliated with Berkshire Grown, donated two. Thanks to Peter Cherneff, who delivers the produce each week!

Anna James has set aside several rows of her garden to share with us. She could use some help weeding and picking and delivering.

The Bear Kare Golf Tournament yielded a major donation of food. Thank you to all who contributed. We hope you won your rounds of golf!

On our wish list this month: peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and fruit, paper goods, miscellaneous treats. We also need plastic bags. If your garden is growing more than you can eat, consider sharing your produce with us. Call Marcia Brolli at 229-2624.

Volunteers needed. We have a wonderful cadre of folks who help us, but we would love to have two or three more people to call on. Can you give some time on Monday mornings for one month a year? We gather at 8:30 and are finished by 10:30. It's a great way to start the week! To learn more, call Marcia Brolli at 229-2624.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

NORTH EGREMONT

North Egremont Baptist, Egremont Plain Rd. (Rt. 71) 528-6066. Sunday: 10am Worship; Monday: 6pm Bible Study. Rev. Stephen Vannah, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of S. Berkshire. Meets at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (Congregational), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Father Henry Kowalczyk

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

INVASIVES: THE ALIENS AMONG US

They don't have passports or visas and they aren't the "homeless, tempest-tost" that the poet Emma Lazarus wrote about, but they are aliens nonetheless, and they are wreaking havoc on our local shores and soil. Some even came as "stowaways" on ships to proliferate in our land. And though these aliens are quite small, they are very harmful.

The past two years has seen an increase in the number of invasive species that have entered Massachusetts and the Berkshires.

Asian longhorned beetle. One of the most dangerous, this insect is native to China and was first noticed about two years ago in



Asian longhorned beetle

Brooklyn. Since then, it has spread northward to New England, infesting mostly maples but also elders, birch, elm and other species. Tunneling by the larvae eventually kills infested trees. The beetles themselves are 1 1/4 to 3 1/4 inches long,

black with white spots and long antennae striped white and black. A large infestation was found this past year in Worcester, MA, and resulted in more than 25,000 trees being cut down as of July. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture verified that more than 13,000 of the trees were infested.

Because of the severity of the problem, Governor Deval Patrick proclaimed August "Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness Month" to encourage every resident of the state to be on the lookout for the beetle and report any sightings. Signs of the pest include oval pits in the bark of a tree, oozing sap and accumulation of coarse sawdust near round exit holes. Berkshire County and other counties in Massachusetts and New York State have prohibited the importation of firewood that has not been heat-treated. The USDA is concerned that someone will violate the 64-square-mile quarantine around Worcester by taking wood to, say, a distant cabin and spread the beetle into areas where it could cost billions to the lumber, tourism, and maple syrup industries, as well as having disastrous environmental impact.

Zebra mussel. Another unwanted alien is the zebra mussel, an invasive freshwater species that can clog pipes, foul water

supplies and have severe environmental impact. According to the *Boston Globe*, these mollusks originated in Russia and probably came to the U.S. on the hull of a ship in 1988. Since then, the mussels have "become a poster child for the economic havoc a foreign species can wreak in a place with no natural predators," as the paper put it. If the mussels get into reservoirs, they can make the water taste bad. As filter feeders, they may change the entire food web in a body of water, outcompeting juvenile fish for food and accelerating the concentration of toxins in adult fish. The mussels spread by clinging to the hulls of boats.

In July, Massachusetts's first zebra mussels were confirmed in Laurel Lake in Lee. Divers found huge clumps of the small mussels virtually everywhere in the lake. There is now fear that they will contaminate the Hoosic and Housatonic watersheds. At least five boat ramps on Berkshire lakes were shut down to prevent infestation. Other lakes stationed monitors at ramps to ensure that boats are decontaminated. In August, the Laurel Lake closure was extended until Oct. 15.

Sadly, officials talk only about slowing the spread of the mollusks, not completely wiping them out. The state is proposing a required "clean boat certification" before launching. See www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/zebra_mussels_clean_boat_certification_form.pdf.

Bat-killing fungus. Massachusetts bats are now suffering and dying from white-nose syndrome, a fungus that affects the muzzles and wings of eight bat species, including the common little brown bat. Although this white-nose syndrome is still not fully understood, one theory is that it is a non-native species that recently arrived in the US from bat caves in Europe. First discovered in New York State during the winter of 2006-2007, this fungal disease is now believed responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of bats in the Northeast and Atlantic states.

Mass Wildlife biologists are concerned by the high bat mortality because bats have a low reproductive rate and most raise only one pup a year. It may take decades for a bat population to come back after a severe die-off. Bats are extremely important predators of insects such as

mosquitoes. A Boston University study estimated that 14 to 15 tons of insects are consumed each summer by the 50,000 brown bats that live within the bounds of Route 128 west and north of Boston. The unusually large mosquito infestation here in the Berkshires this summer can be attributed not only to the high rainfall, but to the decrease in the number of bats.

Tomato blight. This summer's heavy rains have also brought a major outbreak of phytophthora infestans, the fungus-like pathogen that causes what is commonly known as tomato blight. Phytophthora infestans is the same culprit responsible for the Irish potato famine in the mid 19th century. It was believed to have been introduced to the U.S. and Europe from central Mexico in the 1840s and then distributed throughout the rest of the world. During the 1990s, more aggressive strains were introduced to the U.S. from Mexico.

While early blight in small amounts is normal each year, heavy rains have soaked many farms and there hasn't been enough sun or heat to dry the plants. Winds accompanying the rains have only added to the problem because late blight spores are carried by the wind from one plant to another and from one farm or garden to another. A second culprit may be a wholesaler, Bonnie Plants of Alabama, which sold infected plants to big-box stores such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot.

Throughout the Berkshires, as well as the rest of the Northeast, farmers have had parts or all of their tomato crops ruined by the blight, which first appears as leaf lesions and later becomes a cottony white mold growth on the leaves and fruit. In the Hudson Valley agricultural region of NY State, the blight has been described as "explosive" and "never...seen on such a widespread basis." Some herbicides, fungicides and pesticides can help but once infected, plants must be destroyed.

Turtle threat. The local bog turtle, which is on the federal "threatened" list, faces a new threat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an advisory bulletin in August that an unusually high number of dead and diseased bog turtles have been reported in four states, including Massachusetts. On several live bog turtles, "a grayish or whitish substance/discoloration has been documented on the skin of the head, neck and limbs as well as on the claws." At this time, the USFWS

goes on, "the causative agent(s) of the observed symptoms has not been identified." This may also be an invasive "alien."

Invasive plants. Often descendants of cultivated ornamentals spread into the wild by birds, invasive plants threaten native species in forests and wetlands. They include Japanese barberry, bitter-sweet, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, common buckthorn, multiflora rose, winged euonymus, phragmites and purple loosestrife. In 2002 The Nature Conservancy reported that more than half the Berkshire Taconic Forest, one of the healthiest and biologically diverse regions in the East, had been invaded by non-native weeds. Much of that forest is in Sheffield. The Nature

Conservancy has started a multi-year initiative called Weed It Now to remove invasives from 9,000 acres.

For more information. Invasives cost the national economy an estimated \$10 billion, mostly in lost agricultural and forest production. According to the USDA, an invasive species that colonizes a new area may "gain an ecological edge since the insects, diseases, and foraging animals that naturally keep its growth in check in its native range are not present in the new habitat." To find out what you can do to help prevent the spread of invasives, see the Invasive Species of Eastern USA blog at www.invasivespeciesteast.blogspot.com.

—Judith Schumer

MUSIC & MORE IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

Music & More programs, held in newly renovated performance space in the 1839 Greek revival Meeting House on the village green on Route 57 in New Marlborough, continue at 4:30 on several Saturdays in September and October.

On Sept. 5 the program is classical clarinet, piano and viola/violin. On Sept. 12: music from the Renaissance. On Sept. 26: international jazz vocalist Tessa

Souter. On Oct. 3: writers Roy Blount Jr., Jayne Anne Phillips and Elizabeth Kolbert discuss their work, hosted by Mitchel Levitas of The New York Times.

Tickets are \$25 for the musical events and \$20 for the discussion. They're available in advance or at the door (subject to availability). Call 229-2785 or visit www.newmarlborough.org for discounts and further information.

DEWEY HALL CONCERTS

The Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, held on the first Saturday of the month, has made Sheffield the center of folk music in the Southern Berkshires. Tom Ingersoll, the music series' organizer, has booked the venue through December. Lots of good music is coming!

• Sat., Sept. 12 at 8pm: Yankee Notions. Jim Douglas and Tim Van Egmond, accomplished singers, storytellers and musicians, will perform traditional and contemporary New England folk music on the guitar, English concertina, pennywhistle, and the hammered and Appalachian dulcimer. Take home their CD "Bridges," which includes traditional and original tunes. www.timvanegmond.com.

• Sat., Oct. 3 at 7:30pm: David Hodge, teacher, musician, and songwriter. David teaches at Berkshire Music School and Berkshire Community College. Of his style he says, "You can hear traces of anyone from Paul Simon and Ray Davies to Aimee Mann and Andy Partridge." His CD "Songs and Sandwiches: David Hodge and Friends Live at the Monterey General Store" is available at Amazon.com. www.davidhodge.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Garden talk. On Fri., Sept. 25, at 2pm, the Egremont Garden Club presents a joint presentation as its third annual lecture on Berkshire Gardens. First, Mari Andrejco and Nathan Smith will discuss how they envisioned and built Moon Cottage from environmentally friendly materials. Then, Pam and Bob Peacock will describe how they became experts on gardening with native plants on rocky ledges. Refreshments will be served. A \$10 donation will support the club's work.

Book talk. On Sat., Oct. 3, at 2pm, Roy Rowan and Brooke Janis will discuss their illustrated book *First Dogs: American Presidents and Their Best Friends*. They've updated the paperback version to include the current First Dog, Bo Obama. Roy Rowan has been a correspondent and editor for Life, Time, and Fortune and is the author of numerous books. He lives in Greenwich, CT. Brooke Janis is a longtime television producer who has worked for CBS news and other national media. She

lives in New York City and Sheffield. For information, call 229-7004.

Knitting group. The Knitting Group will be starting to meet again in October. If you are interested, call Lois Levinsohn at 229-0375 or email her at mimlet@aol.com. The meeting time is flexible so let

her know what works for you! The library has a fun collection of new books to help you choose projects. Expert advice will be available at all meetings.

Local authors' day. The seventh annual meet-the-authors event will take place on Sat., Nov. 7, from 10am to 12pm.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Half-day programs. We will continue to provide programs for the school district's half days for children attending kindergarten through grade 4. The year: Monday dates scheduled for the 2009-2010 y and Tuesday, November 9 and 10; Monday and Tuesday, January 25 and 26; and Thursday and Friday, April 8 and 9.

Story time. For pre-schoolers. It's on Thursday mornings at 10am.

Homework help. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 4:45pm older kids can come for supervised homework and board games.

Movie time. On Fri., Oct. 2, we will offer a "Night at the Movies," from 5 to 7:45pm. A movie appropriate for ages 7 to 10 will be shown. Popcorn will be served. Please sign up for the movie at the library's front desk.

Jewelry making. On Sat., Oct. 3, at 10am, we will offer a workshop on jewelry making for children in grades 5 to 8. Construct your own unique piece using recycled costume jewelry. Materials will be provided. Registration for this workshop will be available at the library's front desk.

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on the village green,
Rt. 57 in the center of
New Marlborough, MA

Stravinsky's "The Soldiers Tale"

Narrated by Keith Kibler. *Plus* Mozart, Bruch & Milhaud
Saturday, Sept 5 4:30 p.m.



Calliope, a Renaissance Band

13th-20th c. music on early instruments
Saturday, Sept 12 4:30 p.m.



Jazz & Gala Wine Tasting

Tessa Souter, vocalist with Jason Ennis Trio
Hosted by Domaney's Fine Wines
Saturday, Sept 26 4:30 p.m.



Award-Winning Authors

Three prominent authors discuss their work
Saturday, Oct. 3 4:30 p.m.

Roy Blount, Jr
Jayne Anne Phillips
Elizabeth Kolbert
Mitchel Levitas, host

Gallery Shows: "Celebrating New Marlborough's Past and Present"
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FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

June 15: Selectman Rene Wood explained the proposed state legislation regarding wind energy siting and asked the Board to send a letter to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications opposing several sections of the legislation. Discussion ensued, and the Board approved such a letter.

Town Administrator Joe Kellogg recommended supporting the proposed update to the state's bottle bill to include non-carbonated drink bottles as those requiring a deposit. The Board voted to send letters to our State Senator and Representative asking for their support.

The Board voted to approve an agreement to continue with the Southern Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, now in its ninth year. The estimated cost for the Town for FY2010 will be \$2,769.

The Board discussed and approved renewing the lease of Dewey Hall for the Senior Center. The lease includes an additional \$50 per month for November, December, January, February and March to help with the cost of utilities.

The Board also approved applications for three signs for the Old Parish Church Antique Show in early August. Selectman Hannum congratulated the Town of New Marlborough on their 250th anniversary.

Selectman Julie Hannum will show a map of Great Barrington's trails and greenways to the Open Space and Recreation group for discussion about creating one for Sheffield. Selectman Wood noted that the Upper Housatonic Valley Natural Heritage has grant funds available to start, update or expand walking trails.

Selectman Wood discussed the trees removed by National Grid. She will follow up with the Sheffield Tree Project about possible replacements.

She also noted that she attended two trainings this past week, one for new Selectmen and one for finance officers. Discussion ensued regarding state and local budgets.

Administrator Kellogg noted that he contacted Mass Highway regarding the

painting of crosswalks on Main St. They hope to have them painted by June 30. He said that the subscriber feature on the Town web site has been activated and people can now sign up to receive e-mails on news and announcements.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the annual road paving will be a top coat on Hulett Hill and Rote Hill roads. East and West roads are scheduled to be paved with oil and stone next week. Residents on East and West roads will be notified.

June 18: At this working meeting, the Board discussed the Transfer Station. After discussing financial issues, sticker abatements, notifying residents, criteria for abatements, enforcement, recycling by-law and Pay as You Throw programs, the Board voted to adopt a flat rate system for Transfer Station permits for FY2010, to establish a Solid Waste Task Force to explore alternative systems of funding trash disposal and transfer station operations, and to ask the Finance Committee to provide a recommendation on the flat rate fee for FY2010.

Chairman Macy brought up the oil and stone paving scheduled for East and West roads. Resident have expressed concerns over the paving, and he suggested it be discussed at the next regular meeting. Work will be delayed until these discussions are held.

June 25: Chairman Macy noted that this was only an informational session since a posting had not been made 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

SHOWCASING SHEFFIELD

The Town of Sheffield is hosting the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours" networking event on Thurs., Sept. 10 from 5:30 to 7:30pm in a tent on the Sheffield Green in front of Town Hall. Information highlighting the town's businesses and opportunities will be featured, and the Old Stone Store with the Historical Society's exhibit "Claytown" will be open. In addition, there will be short walking tours of Old Parish Church, Town Hall and the Historical Society buildings.

Sheffield business owners and Chamber members from across South County are invited. If business owners plan to attend, RSVP to Joy at the Chamber Visitors' Booth, 528-1510 or email visitor@rnetworx.com.

Administrator Kellogg advised the Board the Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development had received stimulus funding from the Federal government to expand its block grant program. It proposed moving ahead with projects that didn't receive a grant in 2008 due to a lack of funding. One of those projects is the Sheffield Senior Center. It was agreed a meeting of the Senior Center Building Committee should be held to receive comments and that the matter should be placed on a future Board agenda for a formal vote. [See story on page 1.]

June 29: Chairman Macy acknowledged that the residents on East and West roads, presently gravel roads, did not receive notice one month ahead of the paving scheduled for their roads, as had been agreed by previous Boards. Several

Some Board of Selectmen's meetings are aired on CTSB Cable Channel 16. Check schedule for times.

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residents sent letters for and against paving each road and several were present. West Road residents submitted a petition signed by 10 residents against the paving. They expressed the concerns about increased and speeding traffic, the way the character of the road would change if paved and drainage and maintenance issues. Residents in favor of paving complained about mud and ruts, safety, slippery winter conditions, meeting traffic head on trying to avoid the road conditions and speed. Police Chief James McGarry, Fire Chief Richard Boardman and Highway Superintendent Ed Lord all expressed their concerns with public safety, winter safety and cost to maintain these as gravel roads. The discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

David Smith, Sr., submitted his resignation from the Board of Health. The Board voted to send him a letter of thanks.

The Board voted to send a revised letter on wind energy siting legislation to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications.

The Board voted to put the scrap metal recycling contract out for bid, as the agreement with Ray's Auto is expiring.

Selectman Wood stated that residents who would like to replace a tree removed by National Grid should contact the Sheffield Tree Project.

Administrator Kellogg thanked Berkshire School for its annual donation to the Town. He noted that the Town budget was balanced for FY 2010.

July 9: Administrator Kellogg advised the Board that according to Town Counsel, the January 2008 Special Town Meeting vote to transfer \$450,000 from free cash as a local match for community block grant funds to construct a new Senior Center was still valid. The Board voted to proceed with the Senior Center project pending receipt of state approval of the grant.

Chairman Macy noted that a decision was needed on whether to proceed with paving East and West roads. The Board agreed that the existing paved section of East Road, from Maple Ave. to Water Farm Rd., needed to be repaired and resurfaced, and speed zone/dangerous curve signs should be installed on West Rd. Selectman Hannum said she was concerned about road conditions affecting emergency vehicles but was sympathetic to the residents regarding their issues with speeding and aesthetics. Selectmen Wood commented that the Town has always been supportive of the Highway, Police and Fire departments and was concerned that these two roads did not appear to have the greatest need for paving. Discus-

sion ensued about the condition of

all Town roads and plans for their improvement. Chairman Macy said he did not want to second-guess the Highway Superintendent or the Police and Fire Chief's recommendations and was in support of the paving. Additional discussion followed about the pros and cons of gravel roads versus paved roads. Selectman Hannum moved to approve the paving of both West and East roads with oil and stone as proposed, except for the northern section of East Rd., which would not be paved unless the Board approves of such action following a site visit. The motion was seconded by Chairman Macy and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the amount of the Transfer Station sticker fee for FY2010. The Finance Committee recently met to review the numbers and recommended a regular fee of \$195 and a senior fee of \$135 per year. Discussion ensued. The Board voted to set the regular fee at \$193 and the senior (70 and over) fee at \$134. There was further discussion over the number of stickers each household should receive and whether additional stickers should require a fee. The Board decided to limit the total number of stickers to two per household and to set a rate of \$10 for the second sticker.

After a brief discussion, the Board voted to approve an Arbor Day Proclamation issued by Tom Ingersoll as chair of the Sheffield Tree Project and to approve the Tree Warden Work Plan, both documents to be submitted to the Tree City USA program.

The Board authorized a letter opposing a rate increase requested by National Grid.

Selectmen Wood expressed concern about cuts in the state budget that fund the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist member communities with a variety of planning tasks. The Board voted to contact Rep. Smitty Pignatelli and Sen. Benjamin Downing and urge them to restore the funding.

July 17: Following applications from Verizon, Chairman Macy opened a public hearing to consider the location of utility poles on West Stahl Rd. and Pike Rd. East. Al Bessette and a representative from National Grid were present as well as abutters Robin and Jim Bennett. Both applications are to provide service to new buildings. There was no opposition from abutters. The Board approved the applications.

Administrator Kellogg stated that the bids for the summer paving had been received: Lane Construction, \$73.90 per ton; Delsignore Blacktop Paving, \$68.63 per ton; LB Corp., \$68.04 per ton. The Board voted to award the bid to LB Corp.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to set a price for the FY2010 recycling sticker (used by those whose household trash is not taken to the Transfer Station). The Board voted to set the fee at \$30.

After a site visit just before the meeting, the Board voted to approve the application of oil and stone to East Rd. from Maple Ave. to just past the Winton property at 200 East Rd.

The Board discussed how it and town officials conduct business with the public and how Town Counsel is contacted. It was the consensus of the Board to develop a policy to provide guidance in such situations.

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Selectman Hannum noted that the Town had agreed to host the Southern Berkshires Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours function in September. The Historical Society will be contacted to work with the Board in finding a venue. [See page 15 for details.]

Chairman Macy gave an update on the progress of the meetings with Alford, Egremont, New Marlborough, Monterey and Sheffield to create a new school district agreement.

Aug. 3: Chairman Macy announced that the Town is looking for residents to serve on a Highway Garage Design Study Committee. Anyone interested should contact the Town Administrator's office.

Selectman Hannum discussed contacting the Kiwanis Club regarding the ladder signs in Town [and the Kiwanis is taking on the project; see page 20.]

She also noted that the Conservation Commission has approved the work for a canoe launch at the Covered Bridge Park.

The Board approved an application from Eric Carlson for a one-day wine and malt license for a function to be held at the Town Park on August 23.

Selectman Wood noted that Mass Highway painted the crosswalks on Main Street today. She discussed a request to have Sheffield declared as the Antique Capital of Massachusetts. The request will be forwarded to the Economic Development Committee.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the roadside mower is broken and in the process of being repaired. He wanted to thank the town of Great Barrington for the loan of a mower and operator for three days to catch up on mowing.

The Board voted to send a letter to the U.S. Department of Commerce in support of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's grant application to expand broadband to Western Massachusetts residents.

Priscilla Cote inquired about adding a grievance policy to the Town's Personnel Policy. Selectman Hannum responded that the Board will be working on this in the near future.

Aug. 6: John-Arthur Miller, Senior Center director, provided a brief report about the grant application being submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs. He requested that a portion of the grant (\$500) be used for a small raise for Barbara Fletcher, assistant director. Discussion ensued relative to comparable wage rates paid by other Councils on Aging for similar work. Board members acknowledged Fletcher's fine work and relatively low pay, but noted that no Town employee, with the exception of the highway workers, who had a previously negotiated contract, received a raise for FY2010. To treat all employees the same, the Board said they could not support the raise. It was agreed, however, to study the competitiveness of salaries of all Town positions and possibly making adjustments next year if economic conditions allow.

Selectmen Wood noted that the Library Trustees are again expressing concerns about driveway conflicts with a neighboring property. The Board agreed to discuss the matter at a future meeting.

Several residents are willing to serve on the new Solid Waste Task Force. Discussion ensued about a specific charge for the Task Force. Administrator Kellogg said he would develop goals and objectives for the Board's consideration.

The Board discussed participating in a retreat to discuss



Retirement. At a party at the Town Park on August 9, Ronnie Bassett was honored for his years of service as Sheffield's Highway Superintendent. Above, Selectmen Dave Macy and Rene Wood present a plaque.

a variety of topics in more detail, perhaps on a weekend day sometime this fall. In the meantime, members will come up with topics to include.

Administrator Kellogg reported on discussions he has had with Kevin O'Donnell, Great Barrington Town Manager, regarding the possibility of sharing their roadside mower in future years rather than purchase a new one for the Highway Dept. The Board agreed that such a proposal was acceptable in the short term, but that a replacement machine should be included in the Town's long-term capital plan.

The Board discussed whether the Town should apply to be certified as a Green Community under the Commonwealth's Green Communities Act. It was noted that Sheffield would have to commit to changing its zoning to allow all renewable energy facilities, change our building code to require more stringent energy conservation measures and attempt to use hybrid vehicles for future Town needs. It was agreed significant discussion and public input was needed before any commitment is made.

The Board also discussed the need for training and improved communication of town boards, as well as a boundary line issue for property abutting Barnard Park, on Route 7 and Miller Ave.

Administrator Kellogg provided the Board with a report on the potential revenues that could be achieved by adopting local option excise taxes. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue, the Town could receive up to \$11,000 annually if a .75 percent meals tax was adopted. A hotel/motel tax could bring in an estimated \$6,766 per percentage point up to a maximum of 6 percent. The Board agreed to consider placing this on the warrant for the next Town Meeting.

Selectmen Wood noted that Plymouth Lane residents wanted to better understand what uses are allowed in the Village Center district; it was recommended they talk to the Building Inspector.

She also suggested that a policy be developed for the use of cell phones by Town employees while driving. Administrator Kellogg will develop a draft for the Board's consideration. In addition, she noted that she has been working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Housatonic Valley Association, who will be sponsoring a workshop on the impact of zebra mussels and other invasives on the Housatonic River.

Find phone numbers, news, meeting minutes and agendas at the Sheffield town website: www.sheffieldma.gov

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

From July 9 through Aug. 13, the Board conducted the following business:

On July 9, the Board discussed bylaw changes pertaining to the General Business District. The Board noted inconsistencies. For example, a museum is allowed but not a library, government building, health-care facility, restaurant, light manufacturing, drive-in facility, living units or cemetery. The Board would like to know the original rationale and make corrections. The Board expects this

ASSESSORS AND COLLECTOR'S

Reminders: The annual deadline for Chapter 61A and 61B is October 1. Sorry, no exceptions! If you have questions, call 229-7000, ext. 155.

Second-quarter real estate and personal property taxes are due on or before Nov. 2.

to become a practical concern if Salisbury Bank applies to install a drive-in facility. A suggestion was made to make distinct designations for the northern and southern portions of the district for example, "general business" and "industrial."

On July 23, a Special Permit application was submitted by Lydon Developments LLC. Attorney Dennis Downing appeared with his client, Domenic Lydon, proposing to construct a commercial building for the general repair of motor vehicles in the commercial district. The public hearing will be held on Sept. 9 at 8pm.

On Aug. 13, a Special Permit application for a sign was submitted by the Sheffield Grange LLC. The hearing on this application will be Sept. 24, also at 8pm.

The Board discussed items that might be added to the warrant for a possible special town meeting this fall. They

OIL AND PAINT RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can dispose of oil-based paint and motor oil on Sat., Sept. 12, at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works, 275 Main St., 9 to 11am. Latex paint is not accepted; empty or dried-up paint cans can be disposed of with regular trash, as can empty cans of oil-based paint.

A second collection will be held in Great Barrington on Sat., Sept. 26, from 9 to 11:30am at the Recycling Center across from the High School.

Pre-registration is required. Call 888-577-8448, ext. 30 or email robt@cetonline.org.

include correction of the sign bylaw and limiting the grandfathered status of properties that have been abandoned.

The Board is still concerned that Rock Solid on Route 7 is storing its materials in a way that violates the conditions of its special permit. It is requesting that the Building Inspector enforce the conditions.

Planning Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Notices of Special Permit hearings are posted at Town Hall and the town website. All are welcome at meetings.

—Nadia Milleron,
secretary to the Planning Board

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TOWN HALL NEWS

Transfer Station stickers. Stickers for FY2010 are now available for purchase at the Town Hall. In August, letters were sent to all Sheffield households advising that a sticker is required to use the Transfer Station after Aug. 31. The cost this year is \$193 per household (\$134 for seniors), plus \$10 for an additional sticker. (No more than two stickers per household.) Those not using the Transfer Station have to opt out to not be liable for the fee. For more information, call or email the Town Administrator.

Bulky waste. Sheffield residents who have purchased a FY2009 Transfer Station sticker can take up to one pickup-truck load of furniture, rugs, small pieces left over from a do-it-yourself project and other bulky waste to the Transfer Station Fri., Oct. 16, 2 to 4pm, Sat., Oct. 17, 8am to 4pm, and Sun., Oct. 18, 8am to noon. A coupon is required (one per household); get coupons at the Sheffield Tax Collector's office, or by mail by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope, including your license plate number, to the Treasurer/Collector's Office, P.O. Box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Not accepted: tires, cathode ray tubes (TVs, computer monitors), wood, demolition debris, propane tanks, car batteries, recyclable metals, toxic materials (pesticides, chemicals, oil, etc.) and items that can fit in the trash compactor. No refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers; other "white goods" and recyclable metals can be put in the metals container next to compactor. For more information, contact David Steindler at 229-2628 or Town Hall at 229-7000, ext. 152.

TOWN CLERK

Special Election & Voter registration. There will be a special election on Jan. 19, 2010 for the Senatorial seat vacated by Sen. Kennedy's death. The primary for this election will be on Dec. 8, 2009. The last date to register to vote in the primary will be on Nov. 18. In general voter registration is available year round. Contact the Town Clerk's office or www.sec.state.ma.us/ele.

Hunting and fishing licenses. Licenses for the 2009 season area available, as well as Archery, Waterfowl and Primitive Arms stamps. Those seeking a hunting license must provide a previous year's license or a copy of a hunter safety certificate.

For further information, contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit our website at www.sheffield.ma.gov; click on "Town Departments," then "Town Clerk" and follow the link "Hunting information for Sheffield area" to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website.

Dog licenses. Please remember that if you have a dog six months of age or older or you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. The fee is \$5 for neutered dogs, \$10 for intact dogs. Contact the Town Clerk at 229-7000, ext. 151, for more information.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS Sheffield Town Hall main number 229-7000

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Board of Selectmen	x 152
Building Inspector	x 156
Tax Collector	x 153
Town Administrator	x 152
Town Clerk	x 151
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KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

The annual Kiwanis/Firemen's Steak Roast returns to the firehouse. The event this year will take place on Sun., Sept. 13, the day after the Sheffield Fair. It benefits the Sheffield Hose Co.'s building fund and Kiwanis sponsored services. Tickets are \$25 per person for the buffet of steak, baked potato, corn, salad and dessert. (Chicken is also available.) The meal ticket includes one free drink—beer, wine or soda. For children 12 and under, a hot dog or hamburger, corn and soda are just \$5. Serving hours are 4:30 to 7pm. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at Gulotta's Mobil and Silks Variety, or at Sears in Gt. Barrington, or from any Kiwanian or fireman. There will be live music and a Silent Auction.

Sign replacement. Our Roadside Ladder Sign committee will replace the damaged post on the Maple Ave. ladder. The focus this fall will be on a completely new sign at the intersection of Routes 7 and 7A. Anyone with business in that direction is asked to contact the Sheffield Kiwanis Club at P.O. Box 683, Sheffield 01257, or phone John Gilligan at 229-2778. Fees will be determined once the vendor has been chosen.

Delegates and officers. Six members were able to attend the annual New England District Convention in Warwick, RI in August. The club's slate of officers remains almost the same. President Patricia Hardisty assumes a second term at our banquet on Sat., Oct. 3 at the Egremont Country Club. David

Smith, Jr. remains president-elect, and Dennis Hankey takes the vice-president position. Joe Todd and Dick Goodwin will continue as secretary and treasurer for the 2009-2010 year. Louann Harvey of Egremont will receive a Lifetime Achievement award that night.

School work. The final payment on the Teacher Grants brought this year's total awards to \$1,929. The grants were 90 percent funded by the Pancake Brunch last January. Seven faculty members from Mt. Everett High School, Undermountain and Muddy Brook Elementary Schools and Monument Valley Middle School received grants.

We hope to sponsor some students for Key Leader training at Camp Lakeside in Pittsfield the weekend of Oct. 23-25. Any teenagers interested are urged to contact the Sheffield Club.

Fall events. Watch for our Radiothon date on WSBS radio some time later this month. We will also sponsor, with The Record and Kmart, the "Warm the Children" program again this fall. The campaign allows young persons in need to buy \$80 of winter clothing at Kmart.

On-going work. The Kiwanis Litter Patrol will conclude for the year with the October roadside cleanup of the two miles of Rte 7. Stephen Shmulsky has chaired this project. David Smith, Sr., and Marge Kirchner continue to organize our turns at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen at the American Legion Hall on our scheduled Thursday nights. —Dick Goodwin

Dawn O'Neil's Family Child Care



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Talk: William Stanley Lighted a Town and Powered an Industry. Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30pm. On Mar. 20, 1886, William Stanley demonstrated the practicality of alternating current (AC) generation and transmission by lighting stores and hotels on Main St. in Great Barrington. Local author and Great Barrington Historical Society trustee Bernard Drew will do a presentation about the contributions of this local inventor. At Dewey Hall.

Exhibit: Imaging Bartholomew's Cobble. Sat., Sept. 19-Sun., Nov. 1. Using clay from Sheffield Pottery, two artists from Canaan, CT—Bernie Re, Jr., an abstract painter and Joey Sage Jablonski, an artisan potter—express the river and the landscape of Bartholomew's Cobble. At the Old Stone Store, with a reception on Sat., Sept. 26, 5-9pm.

Housatonic Heritage Walks: Architectural Walking Tour of Sheffield. Sat., Sept. 20, and Oct. 3, 11am. The tour will point out historic houses on Sheffield's Main St. and tell stories of some of the illustrious Sheffield citizens

who owned them. Tour begins at the Historical Society.

Seventh Annual Three-Roast Feast. Sat., Sept. 26, 4-6:30pm. Join the Society for its annual dinner. This is small town America at its best! Choose from roast beef, turkey or pork and all the fixings! Tickets are \$18 for adults (\$15 pre-paid); \$8 children; children under 8 free. At the American Legion Hall, Rt. 7. Call 229-2694 for reservations.

Housatonic Heritage Walks: Poetry, Pottery & Place. Sat., Oct. 3, 2:30pm. With Trustees of Reservations guides, meet the artists responsible for Imaging Bartholomew's Cobble and experience the landscape of the Cobble from artistic, literary, and ecological perspectives. The tour starts at the Cobble's visitor's center.

An Autumn Party at an Historic Wayside Inn. Sat., Oct. 3, 4-7pm. The Society invites you to a convivial gathering in one of Sheffield's most historic homes! Guests have a chance to tour an early brick home seldom open to the public, including the downstairs tavern or "tap room." Now

the home of Carl Proper at 254 South Main St., the house's ownership has been traced back to James Dewey and Captain Stephen Dewey, a signer of the Sheffield Declaration. Light colonial refreshments will be served. Call 229-2694 for reservations. Tickets start from \$35.

Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk. Sunday, Oct. 4, 2pm. Join us for this popular event, a theatrical encounter with Sheffield history. Memorable residents from our town's past come back and tell their stories. At Center Cemetery, Berkshire School Rd.

Talk: To Stand One Minute a Free Woman: Elizabeth Freeman and the Quest for Freedom. Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30pm. Hear about groundbreaking research and a new book on Elizabeth Freeman, or "Mum Bett," from David Levinson and Emilie Piper. At Dewey Hall.

For more information, contact the Sheffield Historical Society at 229-2694 or visit us on the web at www.sheffieldhistory.org. The Gallery at the Old Stone Store is open weekends, Sat., 10am-2pm, and Sun., 11am to 3pm, with extended hours on Columbus Day weekend.

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HAL BORLAND ON THE COBBLE LAND THROUGH THE SEASONS

Hal Borland lived in Salisbury, CT, only a couple of miles from Bartholomew's Cobble. There, he published his close observations of farm and country living in nearly 30 years of columns in the New York Times and in many books. At Bartholomew's Cobble, two of his books have become staff favorites. Hal Borland's *Twelve Moons of the Year* shares 365 of his "outdoor editorials," one for each day of the year. Opening this book to his September entries, we find these observations of seasonal change:

"A faint anise smell is on the air, goldenrod scent, and the plumes close by glint with dew. High-bush cranberries, really viburnums, shine translucent red. Doll's eyes seem to stare from the white baneberry. River grapes in miniature bunches begin to purple in the festooned riverbank trees. Sumac leaves, autumn's first scarlet, make the sumac fruit clusters



Don Worth will pipe in the sunset atop Hurlburt Hill on Sept. 12. See Cobble events, page 24.

an even deeper maroon. Asters are frosty white. (September 24)."

Other September entries given are full of color and life: "The Pulse of Autumn," "First Frost," "Sumac Fire," "That Cricket," "Migrating Monarchs." October entries grow stiller: "Hunter's Moon," "Put Away That Hoe," "Wild Geese," "The Quiet

Comes," "Pumpkin Pie." About the autumn equinox, Borland wrote:

"The urgency of growth is ended for another year, but life itself is hoarded, in root and bulb and seed and egg. Now comes autumn, and rest, and time to see beyond the nearest hilltop, beyond the equinox to the reality of the earth."

A second book by Borland that we often find ourselves pulling off the shelf was written shortly after the Borlands moved full time to Weatogue Valley in the 1950s. This Hill, This Valley

explores the area around Bartholomew's Cobble, celebrating the valley, the river, and the farming way of life. It offers historical, geological and ecological perspectives for our incredibly rich landscape. He writes, "This is old land, peaceful land. In Summer it is full of corn and alfalfa and

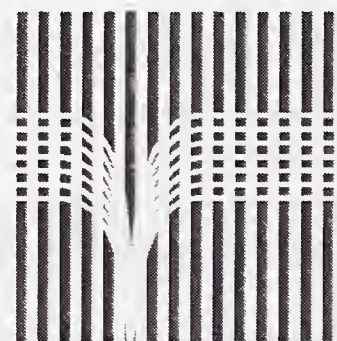
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Come With Me

You know that spot by the river where the land curves like an arm embracing the water, where Queen Anne's Lace grows rampant on the banks, where the meadow grasses are hemmed by goldenrod and roses grow close by the sycamore's feet?

Come sit by the river with me, now while the sun is warm, now when the crickets still sing to the pastured cows, and the geese have not yet flown. Too soon leaves and petals succumb to the wind and the river, ice-bound, will grow silent. Come now, now while the golden summer still holds and every green thing is dancing.

—Pauline Clarke, Sept. 14, 2008

pasturage, and dairy cows. In Winter it is often full of snow, and the river is a winding band of ice. Spring comes slowly here, and Fall lingers, often until Christmas..."

In this same book, Borland writes of an ever-growing sense of place and gratitude for his kinship with the land. He explains that he came to Weatogue seeking a place where he could live in close and constant touch with simplicity

ties and realities: "Some of the grit of this soil has gone into me, and some of the sweetness of this water; and some of the patience of the trees, too, I hope. This has become home, my root soil, and I have become a part of the very seasons."

Bartholomew's Cobble lies just north of the Borland farm on Weatogue Rd. Shortly before *This Hill, This Valley* was published, the Cobble became a Trustees of Reservations nature preserve, because of its exceptional natural beauty and ecological integrity. Borland was a voice in helping to preserve this site, and he served on the Bartholomew's Committee for many years.

Inspired by Borland's legacy, a group of poets and writers are meeting regularly at the Cobble to observe the natural world on short hikes and write about their experiences and observations. Sheffield author Pauline Clarke co-leads the group with Trustees educator Tammis Coffin. (One of the results is at left.) If you would like to participate or learn more about this group, call the visitor center at 229-8600 or e-mail the Cobble at tcoffin@ttor.org.

—Tammis Coffin & Rene Wendell

SHEFFIELD ELMS PROTECTED

Sheffield's finest examples of the American elm stand along the Route 7 corridor.

You can see the classic, hourglass form in the tree in front of Collingwood Transport, which is cared for pro bono by Webster Ingersoll.



Here, arborist Tom Ingersoll performs macroinjection to protect the tree against Dutch elm disease.

Two other fine elms stand in front of H.B. Rabouin Transportation, which has adopted it, and in front of Whalen Nurseries' Corn Crib location, which has been adopted by Campo De Fiori. Each of these organizations has renewed its adoption for 2009, which will protect the trees for three more years. For more information, visit www.sheffieldtreeproject.org and www.elmwatch.org.



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BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE EVENTS

What's in Bloom?

Daily, sunrise to sunset. Visit the side porch of the Visitor's Center to check out our newest display. Volunteer Pamela Wyeth has photographed over 100 wildflowers that bloom at the Cobble, and we update the display weekly to reflect what you can find along our trails.

Free Wednesday Wellness Walks

Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30am. A mix of meditative walking and social time, led by Margo and Lawrence Davis-Hollander, life and wellness coaches and members of Bartholomew's Cobble Property Committee. Their website is www.coachingvision.info. Free.

Fall Colors Canoe Trips

Fall Sundays, Labor Day and Columbus Day Mondays, 9am-12noon. All equipment is provided for a guided paddle along a highly scenic stretch of the Housatonic River, watching for wildlife and bald eagles. Members: adult \$24; child (6-12) \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$30; child (6-12) \$15. Please pre-register.

Moonlight Paddle

Fri., Sept. 4, 6-8pm, Sat. Oct. 3, 5-7pm. Enjoy a quiet evening with a naturalist guide and watch for beaver, bats, and evening wildlife. Members: adult \$24; child (10-12) \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-12) \$15. Please pre-register.

Sunset Serenade

Sat., Sept. 12, 5-7pm. As you savor the view from Hurlburt's Hill and the sun sets over the mountains, listen to the haunting music of the bagpipe played by Don Worth. Members: adult \$8, child free. Nonmembers: adult \$10; child \$1. Please pre-register.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm. From Rt. 7 in the center of Sheffield, travel south and turn right on Rt. 7A and follow for 0.5 mile. Turn right on Ran-

Hawk Migration Watch

Sat., Sept. 19, 10-11:30am. Hike or ride up the hill to experience this seasonal wonder with a naturalist guide. Members: free. Nonmembers: adult \$5; child \$1. Please pre-register.

Across the Fields, Across the Centuries History Walk

Sat., Oct. 3 10-11:30am. Walk around the Cobble to the Ashley House with Barbara Dowling, discussing 18th century land use, the Ashley enterprises and stories of freedom. Free. Pre-register with Barbara at 413-298-3239 x3013.

Pottery, Poetry & Place Walk & Talk

Sat., Oct. 3, 2:30-3:30pm. Walk with two local artists and two naturalists to discover how their conversations led to the current ceramic installation at the Sheffield Historical Society. Free. Please pre-register.

Lichen and Moss Walk

Sun., Oct. 4, 10:30am-12 noon. Bring a hand lens to examine a miniature world of wonders with Scott LaGreca, Ph.D., and friends. Members: \$5. Nonmembers: \$8. Please pre-register.

Eco-Volunteers

Thursdays, 9am-12noon. Join our staff for hands-on experience identifying and removing unwanted invasive plants, helping to protect local biodiversity. Free. Call 229-8600 for information.

November & December Preview

Owl Prowl Night Hike, Sat., Nov. 14 and 28, 7-9pm. Geminids Meteor Shower Watch, Sat., Dec. 12, 7-8:30pm. Holiday Hike-Saturday, Dec. 19, 10am-12 noon.

napo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 per adult, \$1 per child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.



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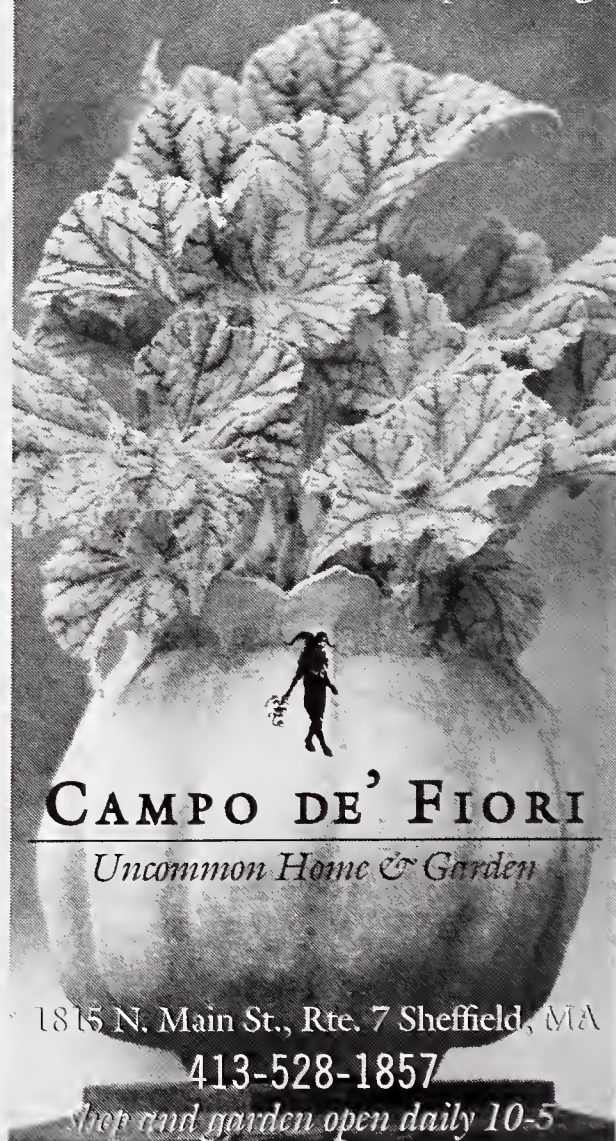
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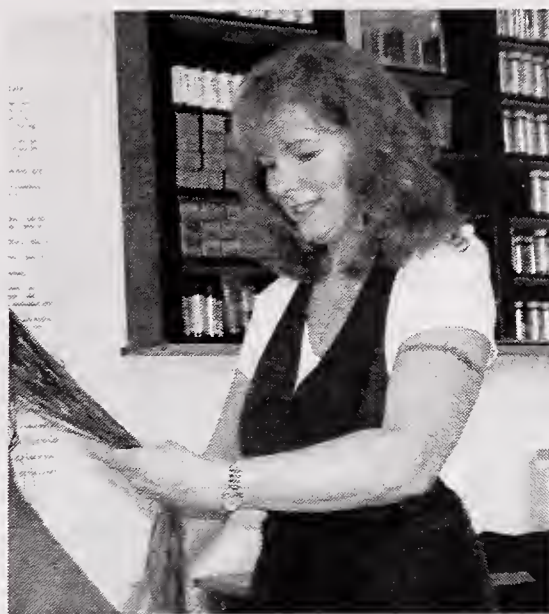
NEW SALON OPENS

Annie Juhlin-Pothul, a stylist at Sebastian's in Sheffield for 10 years, has opened her own salon, Berkshire Styles. The salon, which opened Aug. 1, is located at 534 South Main St., phone 229-6654.

If a passion is a key to knowing one's calling in life, Annie had direction early on. She was 12, her mother could tell you, when she fancied her first in-house salon and began cutting relatives hair. She did it well, and word spread of her skill.

I met Annie at the Torrington Beauty Academy in the 1990s where she was training as a stylist and I, a young reporter, was looking for a haircut that fit my budget. I remember asking Annie if she could duplicate the multi-strand braid that was on a dummy practice head in the window. It reminded me of my German heritage, a slightly more stylish version of how my mother had braided my hair as a girl. Annie not only could copy this complicated style, she invented a five-strand braid that is to this day unique.

After she graduated, Annie worked at Sebastian's and on weekends out of her home in Great Barrington and then



Annie Juhlin-Pothul at work.

Canaan. Recently, space in the building on Route 7 that formerly housed Fellerman Glass became available. With Sebastian's blessing and the help of her partner, carpenter and farmer Tim Hewins, Annie set to work to create a salon in the contemporary high-ceiling space. For Annie, each client is special, and their lives all weave into the business plan. It is a relationship many businesses ought to envy.

—Brigitte Ruthman

TREE PROJECT WORK DAY

The Sheffield Tree Project plans its annual work day for Oct. 24. Volunteers are invited to join board members and professionals in planting, pruning and mulching Sheffield's community forest and street trees. The group will meet at 9am at the Town Hall parking area. Bring gloves and a shovel. For more information contact Tree Project chairperson Tom Ingersoll through email: tom@websteringersoll.com.

The Tree Project is working with the Southern Berkshire Arboretum on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District campus to plant more trees on school grounds. The Tree Project will also be bringing trees out into the community from the nursery that has been started and maintained by students with the aid of staff, Tree Project volunteers and tree care professionals who visit the SBRSD campus annually as part of Arbor Day.

The Tree Project can use your help and support! For information on how to join the effort, visit www.sheffield-treeproject.org.

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LAND TRUST: GRANT AIDS MAJOR PROJECT

The Sheffield Land Trust has been awarded a \$215,000 grant from the Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation toward a major preservation project, the Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological and Scenic Corridor in the northwest part of Sheffield and southeastern Egremont. The grant will be disbursed in two installments—\$45,000 this summer and the rest next summer. Ursula and Walter Cliff of Egremont are directors and officers of the foundation.

The goal of the Corridor Project is to keep intact a relatively unfragmented landscape that is the essence of Sheffield's rural character—a mix of productive working farmland, fauna-rich woods and wetlands and heart-stopping vistas of the land as it swells up into Taconic Range. "It's a natural and working landscape that is essential to the health and heritage of our community," said Kathy Orlando, the Land Trust's executive director for land protection.

The project expands on other conserved land, including the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail Corridor, as well as land owned by the state.

The grant will complete the fundrais-

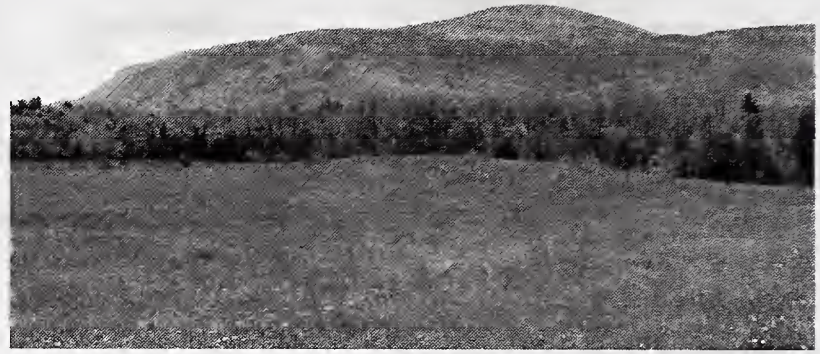
ing for the first phase of the project: 165 acres of field, forest and farm housing on Bow Wow Rd., including two farms, Equinox Farm and Wild & Cultivated, as well as a conservation restriction donated on neighboring land. It will also contribute to the current phase of the project, which covers 320 acres, including Maple Shade and Quarry Hill farms on the Sheffield-Egremont and Lime Kiln roads.

Much of the land is being conserved under the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, which pays farmers for development rights to farmland and requires a "local contribution." For the current phase of the project, the Land Trust needs to raise a projected \$1.7 million from individuals, businesses and foundations to leverage the balance of the \$4.3 million from state and federal farmland and wildlife protection agencies.

Donations can be sent to the Land Trust (see below), with a notation that they are for the Corridor.

20th Anniversary Celebration. Since it was founded in 1989, the Land Trust has helped protect 49 properties—13 of them farms—totaling almost 3,800 of Sheffield's 31,000 acres. The organization kicked off its 20th Anniversary celebration in June with an annual meeting held at Quarry Hill Farm.

In honor of the milestone anniversary, local photographer and designer Thaddeus Kubis donated his services to work with the Land Trust on creating slides and posters showcasing some of the Sheffield farms and other properties that the



View across the Land Trust's Corridor project to the Taconic Ridge from Sheffield-Egremont Rd.

Land Trust has helped conserve. In addition, Nancy Smith and Gary Schumer have donated photographs to the effort.

The slides have been running all year at the Triplex Cinema, which has run half of them as a pro bono donation. The posters can be seen in the windows and on bulletin boards of businesses and organizations throughout the community.

The Land Trust plans events throughout the year to celebrate its anniversary. Watch for news of events to come.

Van Tours. At the *Sheffield Fair* on Sept. 12, in addition to its display booth, the Land Trust will provide van tours of conserved properties. Sign up at the booth.

Fall property walk. On Oct. 17 or 31 the Land Trust will host its seventh annual property walk with guide Anna James at Balsam Hill Farm on Hewins St. Look for details as the date approaches.

The Land Trust is dedicated to protecting the land essential to Sheffield's rural character. It conserves land and hosts lectures, walks, school programs and other community services. The organization welcomes new members, donations and volunteers and can be reached at 229-0234, P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA, 01257; email shefland@bcn.net; www.sheffieldland.org.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

June

- 1 Allen S. Sr. & Gloria Fifield to Donald Mielke, Sr., property at 44 Lime Kiln Rd., \$35,000.
- 26 Scott W. Bartzsch to Alice Marks Koshar, property at 172 East Main St., \$170,000.
- 29 Sheffield Land Trust to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, property at Lime Kiln Rd., \$305,000.

July

- 6 South Mill LLC to Stephen M. Bowman, property at 549 South Undermountain Rd., \$487,500.
- 8 Edward A. Delmolino III to The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Agricultural Preservation Restriction), property at Sheffield-Egremont Rd. (and land in Egremont), \$1,020,000.
- 15 Gregg S. Massini to Horace B. Meigs & Katherine C. Woodhouse, property at Hulett Hill Rd., \$73,850.
- 15 Dana A. Bartholomew Revocable Trust, Co-Trustees Mary N. Bartholomew and Edward G. McCormick, to Sheffield Volunteer Hose Company No. 1, Inc., transfer.
- 17 Thomas W. Candee to Sherry L. Roberts, property at County Rd., \$60,000.

Calendar Page

September

- 5 Music & More; also Sept. 12 and 26 and Oct. 3. (p. 13)
- 7 LABOR DAY
- 10 Sheffield "Business After Hours," (p. 15)
- 12 Paint and oil recycling (p. 18)
- 12 Sheffield Fair at the Town Park (p. 3)
- 12 Yankee Notions music at Dewey Hall (p. 13)
- 13 Old Parish play (p. 11)
- 13 Kiwanis/Fire Dept. Steak Roast (p. 3)
- 25 Garden talk at Library (p. 14)
- 26 Paint and oil recycling (p. 18)

October

- 3 Book talk at Library (p. 14)
- 3 David Hodge music at Dewey Hall (p. 13)
- 10 Christ Church Silent Auction (p. 11)
- 15 **DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE**
- 16 Bulky waste collection (p. 19)
- 17 Land Trust guided walk (p. 26)
- 18 Construct, Inc. walk (p. 10)
- 18 Nonviolent communication training (p. 6)
- 24 Sheffield Tree Project work day (p. 25)

See also the listings for Library's programs for kids (p. 14), Kiwanis (p. 20), Historical Society (p. 21) and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 22)

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ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1st, 3rd" indicates meetings on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed. Town functions listed first.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon

Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (2nd only for winter)

Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd

Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am

Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

Building Inspector, 7am-12 noon

Council on Aging, 5pm, 2nd

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd

Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am

Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am

Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am

Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st

Thursdays:

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-6 pm

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am

Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am

** Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd*

** Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd*

Fridays

Building Inspector, 7-10am

Farmers' market, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturdays:

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1st

Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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SHEFFIELD FAIR & SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

The Fair is Saturday, September 12, 12-6pm
at the Town Park ❀ Rain or shine - under the Pavilion!
(See page 3 for details)

Town Park: Route 7 to Miller Ave., ¼ mile on the left, look for signs

Enjoy loads of fun for the family—music, food, vendors,
exhibits, kids activities, fire engin & more, including the climbing wall!
NEW this year: 4-H & FFA animals ❀ Cattle and horse showing—judging at 2pm
Apple pie contest—judging at 3pm.

**And don't miss the Kiwanis/Sheffield Fire Dept.
Steak Roast & Silent Auction Sunday, September 13, 4:30-7pm
at the Fire House. See page 20 for details.**

*Questions about selling, exhibiting or volunteering at the Fair: Dave Smith 229-9956 or westhill483@hotmail.com.
For the Food Court, Barb Davidson 229-8091. For the Apple Pie Contest, Barbara Delmolino at 229-8696
or email sheffielddtimes@hotmail.com; For the Animal Showing, Cassie Uricchio at (860) 214-0343.*